

# TRANSEND

March 2007

A magazine for employees, retirees and stakeholders of the Arizona Department of Transportation

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*Ganado maintenance technician*

## RUNNING FOR LIFE

**John Curley, Jr., to run  
in the Boston Marathon**

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Victor Mendez  
Director

With the publication of this issue of **TRANSEND** we embark on the second year of this newsletter for ADOT employees. Let me tell you how much I have appreciated reading every issue. The publication truly has lived up to its name, **TRANSEND** a verbal play on the word transcend.

To the editor, contributing writers and the editorial board, I say that you truly have transcended all expectations. As a monthly publication of the Communication and Community Partnerships Division, this newsletter has become accepted as the primary in-house source of information about what is happening within ADOT.

I particularly enjoy reading the in-depth feature articles about our employees. In each issue at least one employee is featured in the pages of the newsletter. Articles about projects underway, awards won, accomplishments, and personnel issues are also well presented.

Regularly published columns about safety, ethics, milestones of service and retirements are great ways to learn about what is happening in the ADOT community.

We value the informative, timely, and regularly published articles in **TRANSEND** I know of no other way to communicate directly with such a large staff of 4,600 employees. Certainly e-mail communication provides quick and condensed messaging, but for in-depth and informative communication with all our people throughout the state, you can't beat **TRANSEND**.

I eagerly anticipate reading future issues of the publication, and I encourage all employees, stakeholders, and retirees to embrace it as a timely and informative publication about what is happening in ADOT.

Sincerely,  
Victor M. Mendez,

Director

## TRANSEND

**TRANSEND** is published monthly for the employees and retirees of the Arizona Department of Transportation, by the Creative Services Group of the Communication and Community Partnerships Division

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*All submissions for publication are subject to editing, for spelling, grammar, and technical accuracy; and may be rewritten for clarity, continuity, length and journalistic style.*



Holbrook District maintenance technician

# Running is his passion

By Ron Loar  
Editor

**John Curley, Jr. is running for life.**

While the moon drenches the high mesas with silver light around his hometown of Steamboat, every morning John Curley, Jr., a Holbrook District maintenance technician, races the wind, his feet pounding a cadence against the hard-packed red clay of the Navajo Reservation in Northeastern Arizona.

In the dark, John can barely make out the silhouette of an ancient monolith in the distance. He sets his sights on the towering rock and begins to run toward it. "How far is it," he wonders, "Maybe 10 miles." It is an easy run for him as he sprints between juniper and mesquite trees. Like a jackrabbit, he scurries past ancient boulders.

The 42-year-old ADOT employee has been running since he was 10 years old. It is a personal discipline instilled in him by his father who believed that running not only develops one physically, but mentally and emotionally, as well. "As a young boy, every morning I was awakened by my father at 4:30 to run, regardless of weather. At the time, I did only as I was told, unaware of the avenue that running would take me," he says. "In hot weather, through rain or snow, I ran. Every day I ran. First a couple of miles, then four and five," I would run, not knowing where I was running to, or for what purpose."

Curley, who lives in the same community where he grew up, now frequently runs the 13 miles to work at the Ganado Maintenance Yard and then back home at night no matter what the weather.

His passion for running carried over into his school days at Ganado High School where he participated on the cross-country track team. The team won state track championships from 1979 to 1983, the years that Curley was on the track team. "Although I have the discipline of running from my father, I also enjoyed running with my peers," he says.

Navajos have long been regarded as swift and distant runners, and by the age of 20, running was a way of life for this Native American. Today, Curley runs for personal pleasure. It is his way of testing his own mettle.

In 2006 he participated in the half-marathon (13.1 miles) segment of the *P.F. Chang's Rock n' Roll Marathon* in Phoenix. His original goal was to just complete the race. But as he trained in the months preceding the race, he set another goal for himself that of finishing the race in 1 hour and 30 minutes. He beat his personal goal, completing that race in 1 hour and 26 minutes.

**Marathon runner and ADOT employee John Curley, Jr., will run in the Boston Marathon on April 16. His certified time in the P.F. Chang's Rock n' Roll Marathon qualifies him for the Boston event. His goal is to beat his own time of 2 hours and 56 minutes as he joins 22,500 other runners from around the world in the 26.2 mile race through Boston. TRANSEND will bring you coverage of Curley's participation in that event in the May issue.**

course of his previous marathons to the steep side of a mountain, the challenge was all John Curley needed. He finished the course in 37 minutes, again placing first and earning him a trophy that calls him *King of the Mountain*.

*Continued on Page 4*



## Running is his passion


*Continued from Page 3*

In January of this year Curley finished 90<sup>th</sup> in a field of 37,000 participants in the *P. F. Chang's Rock n' Roll Marathon*. His finishing time of 2 hours and 56 minutes was well under the established time to beat of 3 hours and 20 minutes for men between 40 and 44 years of age. He averaged 6 minutes, 43 seconds a mile.

In preparation for the *P.F. Chang* event, Curley says that training became a daily regimen for him. He worked on developing his distance, endurance and speed. "I also knew that health was a key aspect, so appropriate diet and rest were also a part of my training," he says.

"Being physically fit is the key to doing highway maintenance work," says Curley's supervisor, Ron Curtis, at the Ganado Maintenance Yard, "Fixing guardrail, mending fences, cleaning drainage pipes, and even standing for long hours flagging on highway projects, makes a lot of physical demands on our workers. John, who has been a team leader in the Holbrook District, does a wonderful job. He sets good examples and always sets high standards to accomplish his goals."

In addition to long-distance running, Curley is an amateur rodeo participant and enjoys playing basketball. The Ganado Maintenance crew has a basketball team on which Curley participates. His supervisor says of Curley, "he never seems to tire or give up. He reminds me of the TV commercial of the Energizer Battery bunny – he just keeps going, going, and going."


Running has become a way of life for the amateur athlete. He encourages others to join in the physical aspect of wellness. "There are many obstacles that a person may meet in life; such as physical illness, disabilities or mental illness. All of these have been proven to be cured through physical exercise like running, jogging and walking," he claims. Curley cites articles published in sports magazines and medical journals that support the theory that "physical exercise can change people for the better and add more years to that special blessing that we call life." 



## ITD Leadership Team honors John Curley, Jr.

**D**uring a meeting of the Intermodal Transportation Leadership Team, State Engineer Sam Elters read a proclamation setting aside February 22, 2007 as *Run for Life Day* to honor John Curley, Jr., an ITD employee from the Ganado Maintenance Yard.

Curley, who has successfully completed numerous marathons, will run in the Boston Marathon in April. Speaking at the L-Team meeting, the highway maintenance employee told of his passion for running and how he encourages young people to run for their health.

Members of the L-Team had asked the runner to bring his running shoes and some of his trophies and medals he has won. While Curley was speaking, the team members passed his shoes around the table and they filled his shoes with cash donations to help defray the cost of the trip to the Boston Marathon. 

*John Curley, Jr. With awards he has won as a long-distance runner. He hopes to add yet another medal to his collection after participating in the Boston Marathon in April.*

## New deputy director begins duties

**R**ichard Travis is the new Deputy Director of the Arizona Department of Transportation, replacing David Jankofsky who resigned.

Announcing the appointment, ADOT Director Victor Mendez said, "Mr. Travis brings diversified knowledge in areas that will be most beneficial to ADOT. His recent experience with the Attorney General's Office includes budget management, legislative relations and media strategy, as well as outreach efforts with trade associations, organized labor and local governments."


In addition to more than three years as Special Assistant Attorney General, Travis has served as Government Relations and Public Information Officer to the Arizona Supreme Court where he was responsible for developing the legislative agenda for the administrative office of the Supreme Court, producing the court's strategic plan, drafting

the annual report and communicating with the news media regarding opinions issued and administrative actions by the court.

Previously Travis had been staff director for the Arizona House of Representatives, directing a research staff of analysts, economists, and legal counsel. He was responsible for drafting legislation, negotiating state budget levels, and advising leadership on legal and policy issues.



*Richard Travis*

Travis holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Arizona College Of Law in Tucson. He has a B.A. degree in Philosophy from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, where he was a member of the Philosophy Honor Society. At the London (England) School of Economics and Political Science, Travis studied economics, political science and comparative legal theory. 

## Equipment Safety Rodeo May 9 - 10 at fairgrounds


**T**he Equipment Safety Partnering Rodeo is back on the calendar this year, according to John Trojanovich, coordinator of the event scheduled for May 9 and 10 at the Arizona State Fairgrounds in Phoenix.

Approximately 600 participants from ADOT, county, city, and tribal government agencies will take part in three categories: written test, equipment and mechanical inspection, and driving course. Mandatory training and certification classes are also offered.

A competitive civil engineering test will be offered for students of Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University.

Equipment and materials vendors will be invited to display their products and merchandise.

Additional details of the popular event will be released as the event draws closer, according to Diane Navarro, assistant coordinator.

Last year's Rodeo was cancelled due to a scheduling conflict, Trojanovich said. 



Get to know

## Bill Tait – new emergency manager for ADOT

**D**eveloping a comprehensive emergency operations preparedness plan for the Arizona Department of Transportation and the State of Arizona is the focus of Bill Tait in his new assignment as emergency manager.

“Bill Tait brings an impressive background in the area of emergency planning and administration,” says ADOT Director Victor Mendez, “I’m confident in his ability to develop and institute a workable plan that will not only benefit ADOT, but the entire state.”

Tait is in the process of writing emergency response plans that he intends to develop with county and state partners. At the agency level, Tait is already instituting working relationships with the Office of Safety and Health, Motor Vehicle Division Enforcement and the Communication and Community Partnerships Division. “I want to elevate the level of visibility of ADOT by establishing planning and training exercises throughout the state. I believe in taking an offensive and defensive approach to emergency management,” Tait said.



*Bill Tait*

On a broader scale, Tait will coordinate his program with the Department of Homeland Security, Arizona Department of Emergency Management and the Department of Public Safety.

His goals also include what he calls, “hardening our infrastructure.” Tait says that “our highways and bridges should be capable of supporting large scale disaster operations, including defense, mobilization, and evacuation.” He said these needs are not limited to potential terrorist attacks, but should include weather related emergencies, fires, chemical spills and potential radiation leaks from nuclear reactors.


### **Emergency preparedness in the home**

The emergency manager says that it is equally important to train ADOT employees to establish emergency preparedness plans in their homes. He is writing an educational program that will encourage and train employees to institute emergency shelter and evacuation plans and drills for their families.

Tait accepted the position of emergency manager with ADOT in February after serving as the director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for Yuma County. A member of the State Emergency Management Team since 2004, Tait has served as exercise training coordinator for weapons of mass destruction.

He began his career in domestic operations and homeland security with the Canadian Army in 1975 and was assigned to a joint federal police and military anti-terrorism team for the 1976 Olympics. While with the Canadian Army, he was also assigned to riot control duties, wild-land fire fighting, support to federal prisons, and was deployed on operations to the Middle East.

From 1982 – 1992, Tait filled various command and training officer positions that included a Fire Support Operations Center, and an Opposing Force Combat Team. While on a tour of duty in Europe, he was senior instructor in tactics and technology at a combat training center.

In 1992, he joined the Joint Staff and completed training with the United States Marine Corps in the area of Laws of War. He then led the development of field training exercises for the Jamaican Command and Staff College and was the lead officer for the development of Canadian Army rules of engagement. In 1995, he led the federal planning team for development of an international disaster relief plan that has since been used throughout the world. 

Motor Vehicle Division begins issuing hybrid plates

# Hybrid vehicles make their debut on HOV lanes

By Jim Cullison

MVD Project Support Manager

**H**igh Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes on Arizona freeways have some new users with the approval of an energy efficient pilot program that will allow owners of three models of hybrid vehicles to use the lanes, even with only one person on board.

As part of the governor's Clean Air Initiative, drivers of the Toyota Prius, Honda Insight and Honda Civic Hybrid models will be able to use the HOV lanes if they apply to MVD for a special energy efficiency license plate. The plate has a decal designating the vehicle as one eligible for the HOV lane dispensation.


MVD prepared well in advance to issue the new plates, knowing that the program was coming. A supply of the plates was produced, and the eligible hybrids were identified in the division's database to ensure only qualified applications would be accepted. The day the program was announced, the plate applications became available on ServiceArizona, MVD's electronic service system.

Hybrid vehicles operate on a combination of electric power and fuel. The three energy efficient vehicles approved for the program are able to achieve a 45 percent increase in fuel efficiency, which was a condition for being eligible.

Candace Olson, an MVD policy writer, drives a Prius and was among the first to apply for the new energy efficiency plate and decal. She bought the car last summer but had a standard license plate until last month. "I really

Appreciate knowing I can use the high occupancy lane. It's a nice benefit," she said.

For now the program is just a pilot project until the Environmental Protection Agency completes long-term rules for use of HOV lanes. Only 10,000 of the eligible hybrids will be allowed in the pilot program on a first come basis.

It didn't take long for the word to get around, as more than 2,200 hybrid owners applied for the special license plate in the first two weeks after the program was announced. 

*Candace Olson of MVD may drive solo in the HOV lane, thanks to her hybrid vehicle, which qualifies for the energy efficient pilot program. Hybrid vehicles must display the alternative fuel license plate to qualify for use in the HOV lane.*





# Arizona winners of International Aviation Art contest

**M**ore than 700 students from Arizona submitted artwork at the state level for this year's International Aviation Art Contest. Winners received certificates during a formal presentation held at the Challenger Space Center in Peoria, according to Carole Glenn, contest coordinator for the Aeronautics Division.


*Airfield* was the theme for this year's contest, divided into three age categories: 6-9, 10-13, and 14-17. First, second and third place are awarded to the students in each age category. This year's winners included students from schools in Phoenix, Glendale, Mesa and Chino Valley. Winning entries will be sent to the national competition, according to Mrs. Glenn. Receiving certificates for their entries were Amelia Wells, Amanda Jacobs, Shannon Liu,

Briana McHone, Nancy Martinez, Carlautta Griffith, Stefan Barker, Lolamaui Kefu, Sabrina Vaughn, and Dennis Herron.

"This is the first year that we held a formal awards ceremony," says Mrs. Glenn, "Students, teachers, family and friends of the participants attended the recent Saturday afternoon event. "Part of the attraction of holding the event at the Challenger Space Center," says Glenn, "was the opportunity for attendees to tour the facility and attend a star gazing event that evening."

Students in all private, public, parochial, charter and home schools in Arizona are encouraged to participate. State winners are forwarded to Washington D.C. for the national competition and national winners are then sent to Paris, France for the international contest.

ADOT co-sponsors the event along with the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Aeronautic Association, NASA, and the National Association of State Aviation Officials, in cooperation with the Federation Aeronautique Internationale.

The mission is to motivate and encourage young people to become more familiar with and participate in aeronautics, engineering, and science. "Our goal is to encourage and involve more students in Arizona than any other state in the country as we promote aviation and art, said Mrs. Glenn. The art work we receive is incredible and we want to share that talent with the world." 

*Kim Stevens, deputy director of the Aeronautics Division, poses with Arizona winners of the International Aviation Art Contest. Students are, front row, Amelia Wells, Amanda Jacobs, and Shannon Liu; back row, Briana McHone, Nancy Martinez, Carlautta Griffith, (Stevens), Stefan Barker, Lolamaui Kefu, and Sabrina Vaughn. Absent from photo is Dennis Herron.*





## Practical Ethics

The ADOT Way

By Karen Mills and Dian Work

### Principles of Objective Judgment

Continuing our discussions on the Five Principles of Public Service Ethics, we examine the principle of objective judgment.

Public servants must make all official decisions on the merits, free of partiality or prejudice and unimpeded by conflicts of interest.

## Milestones in Service

The following employees attained milestones for their length of service:

### 35 years

**Elizabeth M. Bonine**, MVD, DOSS Communications

### 30 years

**Alvin C. Bahe**, ITD, Prescott Construction

### 25 years

**Jesus Garza, Jr.**, ITD, Tucson Maintenance

### 20 years

**Mickey Lee Sickles**, MVD, Tempe Dual  
**Alfredo Zapata**, ITD, Roadway Support

A conflict of interest is a situation in which an employee's private interest, usually of a financial or economic nature, raises a reasonable question of conflict with the employee's public duties and responsibilities. Acceptance of gifts or favors could create a conflict of interest.

An ADOT employee who is considering accepting a lawful gratuity should carefully, realistically, and objectively evaluate the likely motive of the person offering it. Consider these questions before accepting a favor or a gift:

- Why am I being offered this gift or favor?
- If it would not be for my influence, would I be offered the benefit?
- Who is paying for it?
- Is it likely to be written off as a business expense?
- If I accept the benefit, will others reasonable think that the donor has some hold on me, or that I owe something in return?
- Is there an offsetting public good to justify the appearance of impropriety created by the acceptance of the gift or favor?

All cases in which there is any doubt need to be measured against the yardstick of whether the action raises reasonable suspicions regarding the integrity of the public employee, or the governmental entity.

Read next month's column as we continue to discuss the Five Principles of Public Service Ethics, focusing on the subject of accountability.

## I-40 bridge project earns Marvin M. Black award

The I-40 bridge over the Rio de Flag near Flagstaff, has been selected as a winner of the 2007 Marvin M. Black Excellence in Partnering Award.

Sundt Construction, Inc., prime contractor for the project, will receive the award at the 88th Annual Convention of the Associated General Contractors of America, to be held in San Antonio, Texas.



Gloria Bernabe, a transportation engineer specialist with the Transportation Operations Section in Phoenix sent us this e-mail:

*Good afternoon, Ron,*

*I want to tell you that the TRANSEND publications are fantastic! They are very professional, with great graphics and great stories. I have worked for ADOT since 1975 and these are by far the best!*

**ED:** Dear Gloria,

Thanks for your kind words. If you ever have any ideas for articles or features, let us know. We're always looking for fresh ideas.

## Comments and Kudos

Motor Vehicle Division Director Stacey Stanton passes along a letter she received from a satisfied customer who was pleased with the improved customer service she received:

*I just want to let you know what a wonderful experience I had yesterday at the Surprise MVD office. I had lost my wallet and needed to get a duplicate license.*

*Having spent hours at the MVD office five years ago while getting my new license when I moved here, I assumed that I would have a similar experience. So, I came prepared with a bottle of water and a book.*

*I walked in the door and was given a form. Once that was completed, I was given a number and sat down. I barely had time to read one page in my book when my number was called. I went to the counter and the friendly woman pulled up my information, completed what needed to be done and collected \$4.00 and told me I would be called in awhile. I barely sat down when my name was called, my photo taken, and I was told that it would be a few minutes before my license was ready. Again, I barely had time to open my book when my name was called and I was given my new license. All totaled, I was in and out within 15 minutes!*

*I had read in the paper that the MVD was working hard to improve the processes and customer service. From what I saw*

*yesterday, all of that hard work has paid off. It was a quick, efficient process and all the staff members were very friendly.*

*I am sure you hear lots of complaints, and I felt it was only fair that you also hear when your staff does such an outstanding job. It was very much appreciated.*

*Sincerely,  
Cathy Catlin  
Surprise, Arizona*

Tim Tait, community relations officer for ADOT, addressed a Boy Scout Troop in Ahwatukee. Tait, a former Eagle Scout, discussed the proposed South Mountain Freeway. The presentation was part of the scouts' merit badge program.

Denise Carbone, mother of one of the scouts, sent an e-mail to thank Tait and ADOT for the presentation:

*I want to express my thanks to you for coming way out to Ahwatukee to visit the [Boy Scouts]. I was absolutely amazed at how you held their attention and how good you were with them! It was a wonderful experience for them and for me. I learned so much from your visit.*

*Stay safe and well. You are truly an asset to the community and to those you serve.*

*With gratitude and sincerity,  
Denise*

LeRoy Pugh of Queen Valley e-mails us to tell how much he appreciates being kept informed about construction updates, especially along U.S. 60 in the East Valley:

*Hey, thank you so much for the info. Information is good. Please do include me on the newsletter mailing for US 60. My wife and I live in Queen Valley (past Florence Junction) and work in Tempe. Thus the U.S. 60 is our life line. And the car pool saves us a lot of time to.*

*Thank you again for all the work you are doing to give use better freeways! You are appreciated more then you know. Keep up the good work!*

*LeRoy Pugh*

From Jeff Brennan, comes this message:

*I have been in the East Valley for 22 years and have never taken time to say how impressed I am with the work of ADOT in that time. This freeway system is truly amazing.*

*Thank you ADOT planners for the hard work and vision.*

*Jeff Brennan*



## STATS

### Safety Talk and Tidbits

Sonya Herrera  
Safety & Health Administrator

#### Safety Council making your job easier

Employees of the Arizona Department of Transportation have some very tough days on the job:

A maintenance technician steps off a truck and turns his ankle. A surveyor is bitten by a fire ant and has an allergic reaction. A customer service representative is confronted by an angry citizen. An equipment services mechanic is struck on the head by an overhead door.

How can we make our jobs at the ADOT safer? Where do safety regulations and our daily jobs meet in the real world? What can we do better and smarter?

These are the kinds of questions being answered by the ADOT Safety Council. The council is made of people who are working experts in the daily tasks of the agency, from customer service, and data entry, to heavy equipment operation, as well as professionals in the science (and art) of safety and health administration.

Regional Safety and Health Consultants, Courtney Perrier Bear and Lee McCleary provide guidance, regulatory knowledge, and practical experience to the council. Dell Jenkins of Equipment Services is the chairperson and John Bolson of the Flagstaff District is co-chairperson.

Other members are: Denise Tovar, ITG, note-taker; Dawn Palmer, ITD, Safford District, Alex Monsegur, MVD, Enforcement; Ami Larson, MVD, Customer Service; Amir Sakhi, MVD, Administration; Carol Hayes, ITD, Kingman District; Eileen Fregozo, ITD, Yuma District; Emily Dawson, ITD, Tucson District; Gary Kendrick, ITD, Phoenix Maintenance; Jo Ann Noriega, ITD, Globe District; Lori Adams, ITD, Holbrook District; Mark Catchpole, TPD, Data Collections; Mary Lou Arriaga, CCP Division, Michael Cockrum, Aeronautics Division; Pat Terry, TSG, Facilities; Suzan Tasvibi-Tanha, ITG; and Cheryl Williams, ITD, Prescott District.

The Safety Council meets monthly to discuss safety concerns that impact all of ADOT. One of the council's first products is safety alerts, which are sent via e-mail on an as needed basis to address important safety issues like fuel pump safety and tire inflation. An Employee Safety Survey and a Safety Handbook are being developed by the council.

The four main goals of the Safety Council are:

- Develop safer, and healthier work place
- Establish uniform safety policies and procedures
- Promote and communicate safety practices
- Address, expedite, and find solutions for safety issues.

Got a big project due in 2 hours? The Safety Council is working hard to make deadlines the toughest part of your ADOT day!

## Retirements from ADOT

**Employees retiring recently from ADOT, as reported by Human Resources, include:**

**Ray G. Alcantar**, TSG, Equipment Services-Building Maintenance, 13 years

**Jimmy L. Davis**, OIG, Dealer Investigations, 11 years

**David Jones**, ITD, Prescott District, 23 years

**Robert D. Miller**, ITD, Statewide Project Management Group, 9 years

**Rosemary Robusto**, MVD, 6 years



### March is National PURCHASING MONTH

Visit the ADOT Procurement Office  
1739 W. Jackson St., Suite A  
Phoenix, AZ

March 7 and March 14  
between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.  
to learn more about procurement